

Worksession

Agenda Item #	1
Meeting Date	December 4, 2006
Prepared By	Jessie Carpenter City Clerk
Reviewed By	Barbara B. Matthews City Manager

Discussion Item	Update from the Committee on the Environment
Background	<p>The Committee on the Environment was established by Ordinance 2005-9 to serve in an official advisory/approval role to the City Council on all matters related to environmental protection and preservation.</p> <p>The Committee is defined as having seven to 11 members appointed by the Council. All members must be Takoma Park residents. Board members are appointed for staggered, three-year terms. Terms begin on July 1 and end on June 30. At this time, there are seven individuals on the Committee. One member, Timothy Male, is serving a term which expired on June 30, 2006. In keeping with the Council's decision that interviews will no longer be required for applicants for reappointment when a committee is reporting regularly to Council, a resolution providing for his reappointment is scheduled for December 11, 2006. One additional person has applied to serve; he has not yet been interviewed by the Council.</p> <p>Members of the Committee will be present at the December 4, 2006 worksession to update the Council on what they have accomplished in the past year and what they have planned for 2007.</p> <p>The Committee has provided a list of items they propose to investigate or be involved in, a copy of which is included as part of this agenda packet.. The Council may wish to have the Committee return in early 2007 to discuss those items in more detail.</p>
Policy	The Committee on the Environment shall prepare an annual report to the Council on the activities of the Committee and provide additional briefings as needed
Fiscal Impact	None
Attachments	<p>Committee on the Environment Roster</p> <p>Ordinance Establishing the Committee on the Environment</p> <p>List of Topics for Discussion</p>
Recommendation	Hear the update of the Committee on the Environment
Special Consideration	

COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT
November 2006
(3 year terms)

Robert Goo	Ward 2	June 30, 2008
Timothy Male	Ward 1	June 30, 2006
Albert Nunez	Ward 3	June 30, 2008
Margaret Robnett	Ward 1	June 30, 2008
Catherine Tunis	Ward 2	June 30, 2007
Kea Woodruff	Ward 5	June 30, 2009
Jonathan Wrotny	Ward 1	June 30, 2009
VACANT		June 30, 2007
VACANT		June 30, 2007
VACANT		June 30, 2008
VACANT		June 30, 2009

Introduced By: Councilmember Williams

First Reading: April 11, 2005
Second Reading: April 25, 2005
Effective Date: July 1, 2005

ORDINANCE NO. 2005-9

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE
TAKOMA PARK COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT AS A STATUTORY
COUNCIL-APPOINTED COMMITTEE**

WHEREAS, the City Council established the Committee on the Environment in April, 1992, to provide advice, assistance and guidance to the Council on matters related to environmental protection and preservation; and

WHEREAS, the Committee on the Environment (hereinafter referred to as “the Committee”) has been active since its creation and has worked on many and various projects including creating the annual Arbor Day celebration and Adopt-A-Tree program, producing a Local Action Plan for Greenhouse Gas Reduction funded in part by the US Environmental Protection Agency, promoting energy conservation in City buildings, coordinating Energy Workshops, preparing a successful grant application for solar hot water heaters, developing Green Building Guidelines approved by Council, promoting tree health and preservation and coordinating a Tree Care Workshop, supporting and encouraging good land stewardship and the City’s acquisition of open space lands for habitat preservation, encouraging and promoting healthy watershed functioning, and served to provide technical support for other City efforts such as the Master Plan Advisory Group, the West Nile Virus Task Force, and the Municipal Energy Authority Task Force; and

WHEREAS, the Committee is currently treated as a non-statutory committee with original members appointed by Council and subsequent members approved within the Committee; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the permanent nature and long term objectives of the committee, the City Council desires to establish the Committee as a statutory council-established committee.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND.

SECTION 1. Title 2, Chapter 2.16, of the *Takoma Park Code* is amended to add a new Article 7, Committee on the Environment, as follows:

Article 7. Committee on the Environment

2.16.180 Committee established.

There is hereby established a Takoma Park Committee on the Environment which shall serve in an official advisory/approval role to the City Council on all matters related to environmental protection

and preservation.

2.16.200 Statement of purpose.

The purposes of the Committee shall be as follows:

- A. To advise the City Council on all environmental issues, including but not limited to, tree protection, open space conservation, biodiversity, watershed functioning, energy use and conservation, and recycling.
- B. To review and provide advice on City actions that affect environmental quality, preferably prior to implementation. The Committee may review any work within the City which it has reason to believe may impact environmental quality. This includes resolutions, legislation, regulations, policy, guidance, administrative actions, plans, and program activities that may affect environmental quality.
- C. To educate Takoma Park residents, businesses, and County government on environmental issues and encourage Takoma Park residents, businesses, and County government to choose environmentally beneficial or non-harmful alternatives when available to protect the environment, reduce energy use and limit greenhouse gas emissions.
- D. To convey citizen views on environmental issues to Council and City staff.
- E. To work with City staff on environmental issues and projects.

2.16.210 Committee and Council collaboration, membership, terms of office, structure, and staffing.

- A. Committee and Council Collaboration. The City Council recognizes the need to build environmental considerations into a broad array of City operations and activities. To this end, the Committee will offer advice and counsel as soon as practicable on each applicable issue and will maintain an open dialogue with Council and citizens.
- B. Membership. The Committee shall consist of between seven (7) and eleven (11) persons to be appointed by the Council. Efforts shall be made to have representation from a variety of scientific, technical, and environmental policy disciplines, outreach skills related to environmental science, and with a variety of organizational talents. Members shall attempt to assess environmental issues and protect the environment across the entire City without political bias. Candidates are encouraged to attend meetings and volunteer with the Committee prior to appointment.
- C. Terms of Office. Committee members shall serve renewable three (3) year terms with initial appointments of one, two and three years. All terms shall begin on July 1

and end on June 30. Midterm vacancies will be filled as needed.

D. Structure.

1. The Committee shall organize to accomplish its purposes, and elect from its members a Chair and other officers as it shall deem necessary.
2. The Committee shall meet at least quarterly or as often as required to fulfil its responsibilities.
3. All meetings shall be open to the public and are subject to the Maryland Open Meetings Law. Meeting notices and agendas shall be prepared and submitted to the City Clerk and posted in advance of any Committee meeting in accordance with state law. Written records of Committee proceedings shall be maintained. An oral or written report on the activities of the Committee shall be submitted to the Council at least once a year.
4. A Committee meeting shall not be an “official” meeting unless a majority of the members are present.

E. Staffing and Resources. The City Manager or his or her designee shall provide appropriate staff support and funding to support the Committee’s activities. The City Manager shall make available City communication vehicles to the Committee, such as the newsletter, website, and cable television programming as needed.

2.16.220 Duties and Responsibilities of the Committee.

The Committee shall advise and assist the Council in developing and implementing policies to protect and preserve the environment in Takoma Park. In furtherance of these duties, the Committee shall attempt to accomplish the following:

- A. Assist the Council in the development of policies and programming that address the environmental concerns of the community.
- B. Proactively promote environmental issues and projects based on the technical expertise of Committee members.
- C. Assist the Council in technical and policy direction and in setting priorities for environmental projects.
- D. Review and provide advice on any City actions, prior to, during, and after implementation, that it has reason to believe may affect environmental quality. These actions include resolutions, legislation, regulations, policy, guidance, administrative actions, plans, and program activities that may affect environmental quality. The Committee shall make recommendations or give direction for alternatives to change City actions to actions that are likely to improve

environmental outcomes.

- E. Educate Takoma Park residents on environmental issues and actions to promote environmental quality.
- F. Keep abreast of what other communities are doing to promote environmental protection and preservation.
- G. Prepare an annual report to the Council on the activities of the Committee and provide additional briefings as needed.

SECTION 2. The term expiration chart set forth in Section 2.16.010.C of the *Takoma Park Code* for membership of statutory Council-appointed committees is amended to add the Committee on the Environment as follows:

Committee	Term Length (Years)	Expiration
Committee on the Environment (§ 2.16.180 <i>et seq.</i>)	3	June 30

SECTION 3. This Ordinance shall be effective on July 1, 2005.

Adopted this 25th day of April, 2005, by roll call vote as follows:

Aye: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Mizeur, Seamens, Williams

Nay:

Absent:

Abstain:

Takoma Park Committee on the Environment—topics to discuss with Council:

- 1) What we've accomplished this year
 - Rain barrel workshop
 - Table at Arbor Day and at Folk Festival last year
 - Comments on proposed development on New Hampshire and on DC plan
 - Mercury switch removal legislation—research, drafting, lobbying
 - Newsletter articles written
 - Arborist selection
 - Collaboration on Wildlife Habitat Community effort
- 2) What we're planning for the coming year
 - EnergyStar workshop for local businesses
 - Backyard habitat public outreach (continuing)
 - Mercury switch removal legislation (continuing)
 - Another rain barrel workshop
 - Website with information resources
 - Update green building guidelines
 - Green Building Workshop with Housing and Community Development
- 3) Discuss with Council Issues to Investigate and/or Be Involved In
 - Revisit Climate Change Action Plan—high interest to implement some strategies, develop additional actions, e.g. public outreach, tree planting, carbon credits, brochure about the Plan, group purchasing
 - Consider making Green Building Guidelines mandatory, at least for public buildings and possibly large private developments
 - Stormwater issues—actions, possible ordinance, regulations, amend fee to provide incentives
 - Committee role in Arbor Day
 - Committee role on development issues
 - Flyers/brochures/other information for the public
 - Revisions to Tree Ordinance, regulations—e.g., undesirable species
 - Tree inventory, management issues